Buenavista, Malalad lead 6-gold RP splurge in SEAG

Cops framed me, says No. 4 'most wanted'



By Joey A. Gabieta

TACLOBAN CITY—The man identified as the country's No. 4 most wanted kidnapper criticized the government ... [illegible]

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, December 8, 2003 + 44 pages / vol. 18 / no. 262

WHAT'S INSIDE

- BSP expects weak peso, high interest rates in '04 — BUSINESS/B1
- US air strike kills 9 Afghan children — WORLD/A11
- 'E-Gloria' targets 2M — ACROSS/A17

Drug lords also face execution–Palace

Crime watchdogs hit earlier decision

By Julie L. Javellana, Christine V. Esguerra and Carlito Pablo

DRUG dealers, too.

A day after announcing that only convicted kidnappers would be executed, Malacañang yesterday changed its mind again. The Palace said that convicted high-profile drug dealers would not be spared from lethal injection.

[illegible]

4-way presidential race to favor GMA

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

[illegible]

10 tycoons bankroll campaign of top bets

[illegible]



MARIAN PROCESSION

[illegible] Quezon City, one of the [illegible] Manila procession in [illegible]. The activity was sponsored by the Department of Tourism.

Danao gun makers busy as polls near

DANAO CITY— [illegible]

Bazaar draws out talents of people with disabilities

By Blanche S. Rivera

[illegible]



[illegible]

Volunteers reap 'little victories' in countryside

By Volt Contreras

[illegible]

WEATHER FORECAST

Ebdane includes Matillano in gripe board

By Christian V. Esguerra

PHILIPPINE National Police chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. has formed a fact-finding board to look into complaints of corruption and favoritism in the PNP which surfaced in the wake of last week's controversial revamp of the country's police force.

To be headed by Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay, PNP chief for administration, the fact-finding board will be composed of all members of the directorial staff, including Director Eduardo Matillano, who brought up the complaints and demanded Ebdane's resignation for failure of leadership.

Senior Supt. Joel Goltiao, PNP spokesperson, said the board will actually serve as a grievance mechanism to allow disgruntled officers to air their gripes without violating the chain of command.

Among the first complaints to be tackled by the board this week would be Matillano's allegations of mismanagement of funds and the "bata-bata system" (favoritism) in the promotion of officers under Ebdane's administration.

On Thursday, after being replaced as chief of the powerful Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, Matillano also accused members of the PNP [illegible] of pocketing "20-25 percent" of PNP funds.

He also branded as "faulty" the revamp involving 22 positions because it neither had the blessings of the Senior Officers Placement Board nor the National Police Commission.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had castigated Matillano for "handling" his complaint in public before asking him up for a reconciliatory meeting with Ebdane last Friday.

After Matillano, a group of middle-level police officers calling itself the Police RECO Graduates for Integrity, Morality and Order (Primo) questioned the revamp, claiming that top PNP posts were being monopolized by graduates of the Philippine Military Academy.

Matillano, himself a PMA graduate, yesterday admitted there was a grain of truth to Primo's complaint. "They have to be given positions commensurate to their rank and qualification," he told the Inquirer. "But, of course, seniority is very important."

Goltiao said the Aglipay board would summon Primo members led by Director Lucas Managuelod to hear their complaints.

"We are trying to reach out to them so we can address their concerns," Goltiao said in a telephone interview.

In a three-page letter signed by 30 Primo officers, the group claimed that its members "have always been relegated to the background despite our outstanding credentials and track records."

"Despite our integrity and fidelity to the chain of command," they added, "we are not afforded equal opportunities. Only PMAyers are."

Primo said the so-called PMA "mafia" controls all but four of the PNP's national support units and all regional offices except the regions 7, 8, 12, Caraga, and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

But Goltiao maintained that all incumbent PNP officials, including those affected by the revamp, were chosen on the basis of merit and competence that include seniority, schooling and previous assignments.

Team-up with Roco possible, says Gloria

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is "open" to the possibility of teaming up with former Education Secretary Raul Roco for the May 2004 polls.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan yesterday said this was the President's reply when the proposal was made to her during a meeting Saturday night with Liberal Party leaders who have started to hold talks with presidential aspirants in search of the one they would support.

Pangilinan, LP vice chair, said he and Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III raised the possibility of a "GMA-Roco unity under one banner" during the discussion at the home of Senate President and LP chair Franklin Drilon.

"The President said she was open to it," Pangilinan told the Inquirer.

Drilon said the LP could also end up backing opposition candidates Fernando Poe Jr. or Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

In a statement, the LP chair denied reports that the LP was split between President Macapagal and Roco. He said his party was yet to meet this week with Roco, standard-bearer of the Alyansa ng Pag-asa, as well as with Poe and Lacson.

Drilon listed the party's criteria for a presidential candidate: integrity, commitment to serve the poor, competence for good governance, and a concrete platform of government.

On Thursday in [illegible], Sen. Manuel Villar said the influential Wednesday Group might support Roco for president if Sen. Noli de Castro would not run for either president or vice president.

Villar said Ms Macapagal was "a close ally — but there is a bigger chance that we will support Senator Roco."

The Wednesday Group includes Villar, Pangilinan, De Castro, and Senators Joker Arroyo and Ralph Recto. *Christine O. Avendaño and Carlito Pablo Jr., Manila, and Roy Padilla, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Ping, Poe meet pushed to save opposition

By Carlito Pablo and Christine O. Avendaño

IN A last-ditch effort to unite a divided opposition, some quarters are pushing presidential candidates Sen. Panfilo Lacson and movie actor Fernando Poe Jr. to sit down, talk and decide who between them will be opposition's standard-bearer in 2004.

Rep. Agapito Aquino (LDP, Makati), secretary general of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino and a Lacson partisan, yesterday acknowledged that the separate declarations of Lacson's and Poe's candidacies were not helping the opposition any.

"What is important at this point is for the two aspirants to sit down and settle between themselves how to arrive at a single presidential bet for the opposition," Aquino said.

He said the two aspirants could still meet before Dec. 15, the first day for the filing of certificates of candidacies.

"The only solution is for them to have a one-on-one meeting," agreed Angelito Banayo, political adviser of Lacson, in a phone interview. "Because at the end of the day one of them might give way."

Whatever the two presidential aspirants decide, he said their camps would have to abide by it.

The newly formed opposition group Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, led by Sen. Edgardo Angara, the other day announced that Poe, known as the "Da King of FPJ," will be the united opposition's standard-bearer after Lacson ignored the selection process [illegible] by a selection group from the LDP last week.

But Banayo said that Lacson is determined to run despite the KNP move supporting Poe's candidacy.

In an interview, Banayo said that what happened last week was the LDP merely [illegible] of Lacson standard-bearer.

American consultant of Ayalas shot dead

Volunteers reap 'little victories' in countryside

Open to all

Direction

Best education

4-way presidential race to favor GMA

New coalition

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Bazaar draws out talents of people with disabilities

[illegible]

Tiny Big Special School

[illegible]

Left out

[illegible]

Cops framed me, says No. 4 'most wanted'



NEGAS

P1-M reward

Ransom paid

Comelec told: Show us you can do it

Visit 'JI' camps, MILF dares gov't execs

[illegible]

Canada renews advisory

[illegible]

Sign emissions pact, RP urges Russia

By Jerome Aning

RP glad for vets' bills, but ...

For want of roads, tillers turn to pot

[illegible]

The WORLD

Editor Lovente B. Gonzo

US air strike kills 9 Afghan children

KABUL, Afghanistan—A US air strike apparently killed nine children and a suspected militant in eastern Afghanistan, a spokesperson said Sunday.

[illegible]

Russians vote in key parliamentary election

[illegible]

Ebadi to cast off headscarf again

[illegible]



FULL OF HOT AIR

Saddam commanding attacks on US forces, say Iraq tribal leaders

Delayed mail saves woman from snake bite

WorldBriefs

Italians protest against pension reform

Europe to help North Africa

3 dead in plane crash in England

Palestinians agree to halt suicide bomb attacks in Israel



FAIREST IN THE WORLD

INQUIRER

Opinion

Death becomes her

EDITORIAL

Bush in Iraq

FOREIGN COMMENT



Payumo's reply on Subic port controversy

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Threat

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

Opposition in disarray

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



Family feud

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica



China-Taiwan unlikely to go beyond rhetoric

NEWS ANALYSIS

Jane Macartney

Democracy has reasons reason knows nothing of

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

Reexamine guidelines on sexual misconduct

LETTERS

Torture should be made a crime

Valerio family protests columnist's claims

No way 'idealistic'

Across the NATION

'E-Gloria' targets 2M students, teachers



NPC in E. Samar to support GMA, says lawmaker

Perez seeks party nod as gubernatorial bet

Roundup

Indonesian trade visit

Uy victory affirmed

New cop director

The cousin, not the mayor

Roxas hits loan sharks

Baby with rare ailment needs liver transplant

House to probe planned coal-fired plant in Iloilo

Pangasinan coastal towns yielding more fish catch

Drug lords also face execution–Palace

Unlikely ally

More serious

Chinoy reaction

Danao gun makers busy as polls near



Backyard industry

Gun culture

Bad blood

Estrada sympathizers

Little confidence

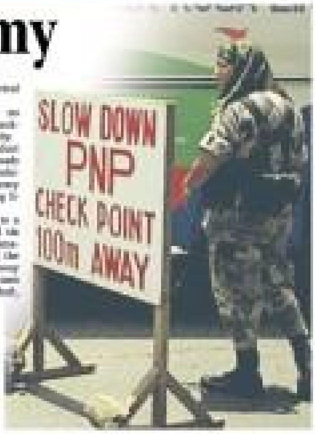
10 tycoons bankroll campaign of top bets

Gray areas

SUERTRES
SUPERLOTTO 6/49

METRO

Now, here comes the Army



No touching, no frisking at checkpoints

Lawman gets taste of rising lawlessness

White slavery ring busted by NBI agents

MetroBriefs

'Bike for rights'

[illegible]

His choice is...

[illegible]

3 cousins stabbed

[illegible]

Do it by Dec. 15

[illegible]

Tragic search

[illegible]



RESIDENTS of Barangay Libis in Quezon City carry household items as well as pet animals at the height of a fire that hit their area on Saturday night. More than 120 families were left homeless.

Displaced families use avenue island as sleeping quarters

By Tarra Quismundo

[illegible]

Vacant lot

[illegible]

Cartons and plywood

[illegible]

Mother, son die in blaze

Another relative also killed

[illegible]

Universal gutted

[illegible]

With a report from Tarra Quismundo

No touching, no frisking...

[illegible]



Vietnam way ahead; fight

By Ernesto Gonzales



Arcilla, Arevalo advance

By Ray Laurea

Heartbreaks in the pool: No one's to blame

By Ernesto Gonzales

HANOI—We're not blaming anybody. These things happen.

The Filipino swimmers needed those kind words from Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit as they tried to recover from the heartbreaking loss of a gold medal in the men's 4 x 200 freestyle relay finals Saturday night.

Cagers bare ultimate target: 2008 Olympics

By Ray Laurea



RP five's su shape in 'w

By Ray Laurea

40-60 golds can still be achieved–Bube

TV firm committed to airing SEAG action

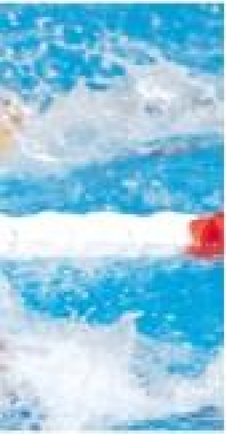
Fairness

CLEAN LIVING



Marcelo R. Gagni

for 2nd on



Quisay, Yambao Adidas king and queen of road



Surigao booters advance to Mindanao Coke finals

Eagle Ridge golfers reclaim Sta. Lucia Cup

ccess takes ar room'

ain





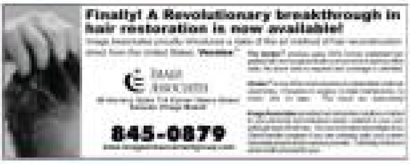
SAVING GRACE

Buenavista, Malalad lead 6-gold RP haul



HANOI—Runner Eduardo Buenavista and pretty karateka Gretchen Malalad delivered as expected and judokas John Baylon and Gilbert Ramirez, diver Ryan Rexel Fabriga plus the men's rapid chess team pulled off golden surprises Sunday, giving the Philippines

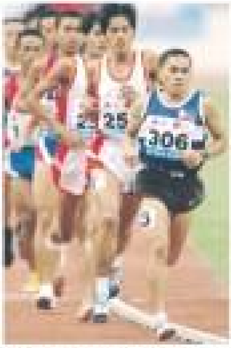
BETTER THAN A BEAUTY TITLE











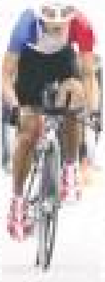
Braveheart Buenavista strikes

Long-distance marvel scoops 1st of 3 expected golds

MOST PRODUCTIVE DAY

RP bets pluck 6 golds





	G	S	B	T
Vietnam	41	14	17	72
Thailand	17	28	28	73
Indonesia	11	13	14	38
Malaysia	10	13	14	37
Singapore	10	12	12	34
Philippines	13	11	20	44
Myanmar	2	12	15	29
Cambodia	1	0	3	4
Laos	0	1	1	2
Brunei	0	0	2	2
East Timor	0	0	0	0

RP SCHEDULE

Salute to Ho Chi Minh, or lessons for the Pinoy

BARE EYE



Recah Trinidad

Hatfield shines as Coke ties series



SAN Miguel Beer's Dondon Hontiveros takes off Rob Wainwright of Coca-Cola in last night's game. The Tigers won, 87-84.

By [illegible]

[illegible]

RUDY Hatfield knocked in a huge three-pointer and put up a defensive gem in the dying seconds to lift Coca-Cola to a sizzling 87-84 triumph over San Miguel Beer last night in Game 4 of the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference Finals at the Araneta Coliseum.

Hatfield justified his conference MVP award [illegible]

"What a lucky win. [illegible]" said Coca-Cola coach Chot Reyes, [illegible]

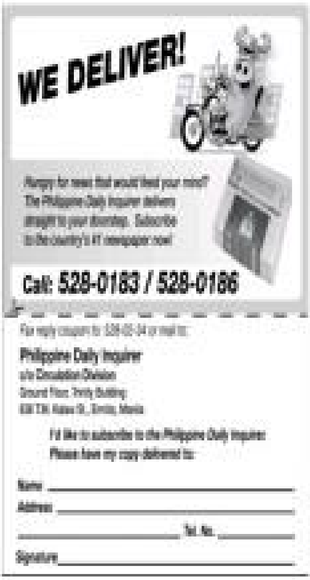
[illegible]

Seven-man Sulpicio quint halts Lhuillier

[illegible]







PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ENTERTAINMENT



MACEDA

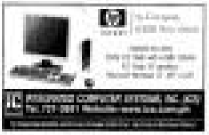
'Gina asked me to help campaign for GMA. I said I would because I like the President's work ethics. But if FPJ runs, I told her not to expect anything from me'

Manay Ichu: I'll help campaign for FPJ, not GMA

By Marinel R. Cruz







MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2003
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
B1

BUSINESS

E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Raul D. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Connie S. Montano



BSP expects weak peso, high interest rates in '04

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has come up with a more conservative set of economic numbers for 2004 reflecting modest growth expectations, a weaker peso and higher interest rates.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the "very preliminary numbers" the central bank had drafted considered factors like the prevailing political uncertainties, relatively high oil prices, and a possible wage increase next year.

The economic targets will be presented to the International Monetary Fund and eventually to the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee.

"We are still firming up the numbers for next year. They could still change but the general outlook has been factored in," said Buenaventura, revealing that the estimates were computed using a 10 percent estimated growth in exports and 11 percent in imports in 2004.

An BSP team is conducting a review of the Philippine economy to determine whether it could sustain the growth, price stability and fiscal discipline achieved this year.

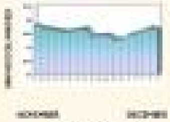
The BSP is looking at a lower growth in gross domestic product (GDP) in 2004 against the DBCC forecast of 4.9-5.8 percent. GDP growth this year should hit at least 4.2 percent.

B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

Cocktales B7
No Free Lunch B4

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

55.56 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Dec. 05, 2003

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



Stocks seen to weaken

LOCAL stocks are seen to slacken up still this week after a positive close in the first week of December due to the lack of fresh incentives to sustain bargain-hunting.

[illegible]



Please take a cheat

BREAKTIME



Conrado R. Banal III

JG Summit, Napocor get BSP nod on foreign borrowings



Barking up the wrong tree

NO FREE LUNCH



Cielito Habito



Strong OFW inflow, weak demand seen boosting peso

[illegible]

BSP . . .

[illegible]

ABC-5 seen luring middle-class audience back to free TV

Court says receivership best option for Bayantel

No free lunch . . .

Price deflation

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

Special US flights

Heard through the grapevine

SEC orders Standard Chartered to stop offering, selling securities

Nov. deficit seen way below ceiling at P14B

National ID: Bad idea that won't go away

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES



Honesto C. General

GOINGS ON

Top franchise holder

Philips, Nike team up

Transco starts talks with buyers of assets

RAPU RAPU PROJECT

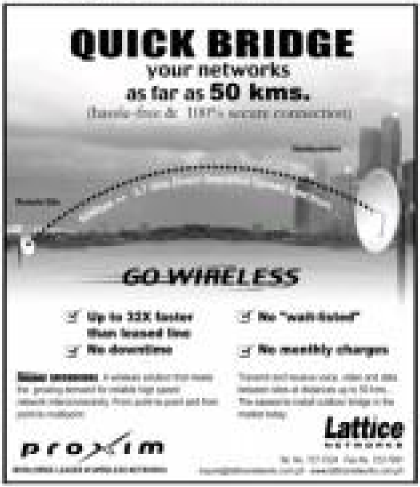
Lafayette seeks $30M in financing

Breaktime ...

Nov. deficit seen ...







The sad state of the Philippine mining industry

By Benjamin Philip G. Romualdez

COMMENTARY

Pseudo environmentalist groups

Why punish us?

Roadblocks

Moving forward

Tariff hike on selected raw materials pushed

Gov't launches electricity bourse demonstration run

CEMENT IMPORTATION

Gov't urged to maintain stand



'Urinetown' is a gleeful send-up of everything from its scandalous title to iconic moments from other Broadway musicals

DESPITE its icky title, the Tony Award-winning musical is good-natured fun.

A sweetly subversive show

By Gibbs Cadiz

"[HE'S] not exactly an actor whom most would have picked to headline a musical comedy, but he has always shown up on time and in shape for his roles. You have to admire a guy this greasy, and, man, does he slide. He may be pan-fried-lardy; he's so squishy and sorry."

Stephen Hunter of the Washington Post wrote that to describe the Golden Globe-winning performance of Richard Gere in "Chicago" (the movie), but he might as well have been describing Michael de Mesa in "Urinetown," the new musical from Atlantis Productions which opened Dec. 5 at the Carlos P. Romulo auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Makati City.

De Mesa, known more for his gritty, heel-ish persona on screen and off (from his breakthrough theatrical role as tough-and-tender Collins in "Rent" seemed a natural extension of his edgy movie rep), completely transforms before our eyes to play the sleek, [illegible] charming tycoon Caldwell B. Cladwell in Bobby Garcia's incarnation of the Tony award-winning musical.

In top hat and tapered coat, shimmying to and fro in his big song-and-dance moment as soon after Scene 1, De Mesa looks spectacular—a true star lit large on stage.

He has never been this wise, this dapper and elegant—so much so that when he begins swinging his legs, flicking his fingers and snaking his way into this lilting number, Gere's silky, ingratiating charm in that movie (remember him hoofing and jabbing playfully with a chum in "Razzle Dazzle"?) comes immediately to mind.

"Urinetown," with music and lyrics by Greg Kotis and Mark Hollmann, is full of similar moments that channel memories and sensations from other shows, some of them decidedly [illegible]. It turns out to be a sweetly subversive production that sends up everything from its scandalous title to iconic moments from other Broadway musicals.

De Mesa's classy number is only the first to allude—strictly tongue in cheek, of course—to a familiar scene from another production.

The Act 1 finale parodies the marching [illegible] of "Les Miserables"; the "Follow Your Heart" duet between young lovers Bobby Strong (a handsome but vocally strained Noel Rayos) and Cladwell's daughter Hope (Cathy Azanza, lovely voice, [illegible]) recalls the spare, wistful ballads of Stephen Sondheim; the Jewish "Snuff That Girl" scene in Act 2, performed with impressive heft by the ensemble, mimics the finger-snapping syncopation and energy of 'The Jets'

CONTINUED ON C4

The art of the poetic and the marvelous

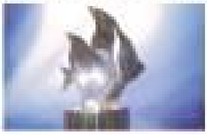


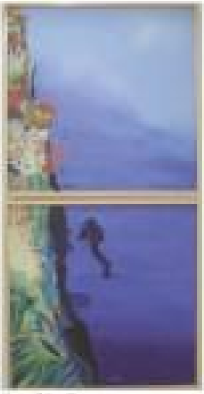






Waterworld in stainless steel and acrylic









They may come from different schools and methods, but their styles enrich, not discriminate



Feast of marvelous pianism



By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

THERE cannot be a more gratifying musical moment than feasting on the superb pianism of our keyboard artists, many of whom have gone abroad to hone their individual talent.

Each performance is a unique, ennobling experience. The diversity of technical prowess and interpretative skill each has shown underscores the variety of schools of pianism that these performers subscribe to, which enrich rather than discriminate one another.

Over and above these differences, however, is a set of plus points that best explain their individual ravishing performance.

Romance is the tone quality that each pianist coaxes out of the keyboard. It is a tone that has much integrity—articulate, lush, ample and, needless to say, caressed.

At times, the tones differ in the intensity of projection, but in essence, the quality of the tone each pianist makes is a pure aural delight.

Choreographed movement is minimized unless it is called for, as a natural expression of emotions, leaving only the essential purity of tone for appreciation.

Thus, whether listening to [illegible], Cristine Coyiuto or Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz, one listens with abandon, and, in fact, asks for more.

At the Equitable PCIBank's Francisco Santiago Hall, [illegible], in a solo recital sponsored by the MCO Foundation, was indefatigable. He showed sheer prowess in essaying two hefty works of Liszt, "Après une lecture du Dante" from "Années de Pèlerinage" (Pilgrim Years), Book II ("Italie"); and "[illegible]" for solo piano, after surging through works of Beethoven, Schubert and Mendelssohn-Bartholdy.

Interestingly, he sustained his power and [illegible] Liszt's dramatic tones, robust and lush. In bold strokes, he dispatched the former, and in the latter he clearly delineated each variation with stunning virtuosity.

At Philam Life Theater, Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz was dazzling in Schumann's Symphonic Etudes, likewise a set of variations whose secret demands he handled with audacious dispatch.

Despite some awful distractions that were made by some philistines who clapped even in between variations, he continued playing unperturbed with [illegible] authority, and even managed to throw a ravishing spell at the audience after the second distraction. This piece capped his program which consisted of works by Scarlatti, Bach, Chopin, Copland, Albeniz and Ravel.

"John Em," as he is fondly called, convincingly underscored Schumann's schizophrenia as seen in the interplay of two opposing moods, the outburst of emotional turbulence and earnest introspection. His performance marked the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Elysée Treaty between France and Germany.

At the CCP Main Theater, with H.R. Ocampo's handsome "Genesis" as a backdrop, Cristine Coyiuto gave her solo recital sponsored by the Coyiuto Foundation. She displayed an enthralling tempered tone. Petite in physique, her tone is sleek and feminine.

Turn to C4

Pianist Raul Sunico at FEU



SUNICO

CONCERT pianist Raul M. Sunico, dean of the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music, will be presented by the President's Committee on Culture of the Far Eastern University in a pre-Christmas concert at the FEU Auditorium on Dec. 9, 7:15 p.m. Admission is free.



A sweetly subversive show





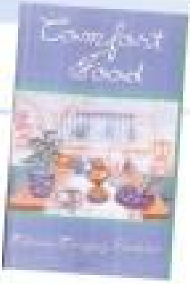
Feast of marvelous pianism



Books LifeStyle

Tasteful comforts

A new book of essays is a writerly-cum-gustatory feast of that most personal of cuisines—the comfort food



By Lito B. Zulueta

REVIEW

IF POWER is the ultimate aphrodisiac, then food is the supreme [illegible]. It not only conjures a complex of senses, sacred or profane, it also summons the most delicious memories.

This sums the premise of "Comfort Food," published by Anvil Publishing and which will be launched tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. at the Turf Room of the Manila Polo Club. Expect the [illegible] crowd to eat up the whole place.

Edited by [illegible], herself a food [illegible], "Comfort Food" combines a [illegible] of genres—the how-to, the personal essay, and the memoir—in a [illegible] of information, [illegible] and memory.

Not surprisingly, the editor dedicates it to the memory of her late father, "The quintessential gourmet." In her own contribution to the anthology, "Banquet in My Eden," [illegible] remembers her dad whipping up his favorite [illegible] from the family's own [illegible] in the backyard.

The effect was not [illegible], but certainly, the [illegible] "a total dining experience, appealing to the senses—sight, smell, and taste."

The writer presents to us the image of a daughter eager for her papa's [illegible]. Of course, by the end of the years, the father has practically disappeared in the [illegible]. "Someday, I must write an ode to [illegible], the one constant in my life, the [illegible] that has sustained me since childhood. My [illegible]

Continued on [illegible]

Kids say the darndest things



One of the most outstanding children's lit authors today releases two new precious works

By Mari Sta. Romana-Cruz

THE RELEASE of these two books early this year by one of the most outstanding authors for children's literature today is cause to celebrate.

Review



Lighter note

Collection of lullabies launched today



CHIN-CHIN Gutierrez



ASSUMPTION COOKBOOK LAUNCHING

New art and decor shop opens in Pasig









Tasteful comforts

Tall order

Historic dish

Catholic nun, ex-kidnap victim, to receive special writer's award



SR. DELIA Coronel

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